



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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NATURAL GAS RATES TO CHANGE FOR ATMOS ENERGY--BUTLER DISTRICT CUSTOMERS UNDER SCHEDULED WINTER NATURAL GAS FILING

Jefferson City (January 3, 2003)----To reflect estimated changes in the cost of natural gas for the remaining winter season, Butler District natural gas customers of Atmos Energy Corporation will experience an increase in natural gas rates under a scheduled winter season filing reviewed and accepted by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This rate change will take effect on January 6, 2003.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.41322 per Ccf (100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will increase to \$0.46857 per Ccf, an increase of approximately 5.5 cents per Ccf. **The effect on a typical residential heating customer for the remaining winter season (January to March) is an increase of approximately \$34 when compared to rates currently in effect.**

Approximately 60% to 70% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does have regulatory review authority to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Atmos Energy Corporation serves approximately 3,900 Butler District natural gas customers in Bates, Cass, Henry and St. Clair.

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